

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Currently there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to reserve posts for women lawyers for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Delay in hearing of court cases

†1053. DR. D. MASTHAN:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the reasons for delay in hearing of court cases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether steps have also been taken by Government to address this problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The delay in hearing of cases in courts is due to various complex factors. These include vacant posts of judges, frequent adjournment, lawyers, strike etc.

(c) and (d) Various steps have been taken by the Government and the Judiciary to speed up the disposal of cases such as filling up of vacancies of judges, simplification of rules and procedures on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies, like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act 1999, *inter alia*, stipulates that adjournments shall not be granted more than three times to a party during the hearing of the suit. The relevant amendments are awaiting notification.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.